

Song takes us on a journey through Harry Belafonte's life, work and most of all, his conscience, as it inspires us all in a call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, my colleagues and a very grateful nation as we celebrate National Black History Month to recognize the achievements of the world's humanitarian, and Harlem's beloved, Harry Belafonte.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658, FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE- FORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my excused absence from the House last week, and to discuss how I would have voted on H.R. 658, conference report for the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act," if I hadn't been pulled away by the funeral of my dear friend, Frank Herrera.

Frank was a World War II veteran, a titan in his community of Wilmington, and a good friend of mine. He will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

While I was at his funeral, the House took action on the first long term FAA reauthorization since the last one expired in 2007. After the embarrassment of twenty-three short-term extensions, I was glad to see our Nation's aviation infrastructure finally given the certainty of long term funding. Finally, we will bring our aviation infrastructure into the 21st century with NextGen, and give long overdue certainty to modernization projects across the country.

However, I was appalled to see that this "compromise" was bought with the rights of hard working men and women. I agree with the Communications Workers of America, the Service Employees International Union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the National Education Association, the Teamsters and other advocates of working people that the American people deserved a clean FAA reauthorization, not this attempt to interfere with a worker's right to chose to form a union.

Had I been here on Friday, I would have voted "on" on H.R. 658.

#### RAISING AWARENESS OF CON- GENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise public knowledge of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, which is February 7–14, 2012. This week encourages all citizens to increase their awareness, education, and services for Congenital Heart Defects, which each year affect thousands of babies in the State of Texas.

Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defects and the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths worldwide.

Over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with Congenital Heart Defects. Every year, 40,000 babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects.

Some Congenital Heart Defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth, and undiagnosed Congenital Heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes. Despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects, and research on these heart conditions has only recently begun catching up to the problem—but more must be done.

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone. Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week also provides the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring February 7–14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTOR CRUZ AND THE NEW YORK GIANTS

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Cruz and the New York Giants on their thrilling victory in Super Bowl XLVI on Sunday night, in which they defeated the New England Patriots by a score of 21 to 17. As a fan, I am excited that the Giants have once again brought a Super Bowl championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy back home to New Jersey. After last winning a championship in 2008, this is the second Giants Super Bowl victory in the past five seasons, for an impressive all-time total of four Super Bowl wins amongst their eight National Football League championships.

Leading the charge for the Giants was the pride of my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, wide receiver Victor Cruz. Paterson, located just a few miles from the Giant's home field, is home to thousands of proud Giants fans. Victor Cruz was born in Paterson, attending Paterson Public School #21 and Paterson Catholic High School before playing football at the University of Massachusetts, where he remains fourth in all time receptions. He fought his way off the streets of Paterson, finding a path to a college education. Starting as an unknown just two years ago, Victor gained the attention of Giants scouts and now competes on the highest level. Victor serves as a true inspiration to the people of Paterson, who gave him an enthusiastic send-off when he revisited School #21 before the team departed for the Super Bowl in Indianapolis.

On Sunday night, Victor Cruz scored the first touchdown of the contest on a reception from the game's Most Valuable Player, Giants quarterback Eli Manning. With this touchdown, Victor had the opportunity to showcase his signature "Silk City Salsa" touchdown dance, a fan favorite. This move shows Victor's con-

tinued connection with his home town, since it is named for the city of Paterson, which was once the center of a thriving domestic textile industry.

Since being signed by the Giants, Victor already holds the franchise record for single season receiving yards after going undrafted in 2010. He has also tied the NFL record for longest touchdown reception of 99 yards. Now, he can add a Super Bowl title to the long list of accomplishments he has already attained in just two years of playing professional football. Victor Cruz's story so far proves that anyone can achieve greatness with hard work and perseverance. I hope that Victor enjoys a long career with continued successes.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet I am especially honored today to recognize and commemorate the achievements of the New York Giants and Paterson's hometown hero, Victor Cruz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the citizens of New Jersey, and me in recognizing the Giants for their victory in Super Bowl XLVI, and in wishing continued success to Victor Cruz, Eli Manning, Coach Tom Coughlin, owners John Mara and Steve Tisch, and the rest of the team. I am sure that former Giants owner and my fellow Fordham University alumnus, Wellington Mara, who passed away in 2005 after 80 years with the team, was also watching from above with a smile on Super Bowl Sunday. Let's Go Giants!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2012, I missed a series of votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall 34, On Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 35, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, a bill to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe tsunami and flood protection, I would have voted "yea."

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,337,881,657,918.14. We've added \$10,536,476,482,623.86 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could